

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A solid state image pickup device being provided with a photoelectric converter portion having a plurality of pixels disposed in a row, a charge transfer portion for transferring the charges generated in said photoelectric converter portion, ~~and~~ a charge/voltage converter portion for converting the charges transferred by said charge transfer portion into voltages comprising:

a timing pulse generator portion for generating at least more than one pulse signal type from among four pulse signals which are; a first pulse signal for driving said charge transfer portion, a second pulse signal for reading out the charges generated in said photoelectric converter portion, a third pulse signal for sweeping out the charges generated in said photoelectric converter portion, and a fourth pulse signal for discharging the charges transferred to said charge/voltage converter portion, ~~and~~

a switch circuit for selectively connecting to a pulse generator output, a fixed voltage potential and a floating level for replacing all of at least one type of pulse signals of the output of said timing pulse generator ~~or~~ with either a predetermined fixed potential or a floating level ~~and wherein the switch circuit selection is not dependent upon signals from the timing pulse generator, and~~

wherein the switch circuit is connected to a terminal to which another pulse signal is inputted, the pulse signals being replaced.

2. (Currently Amended) A method for driving the horizontal read-out of a solid state image pickup device provided with a photoelectric converter portion having a plurality of pixels in a row, a charge transfer portion for transferring the charges generated in said photoelectric converter portion, a charge/voltage converter portion for converting the charges transferred by said charge transfer portion into voltages, wherein

in a first mode, a first pulse signal for driving said charge transfer portion, a second pulse signal for reading out the charges generated in said photoelectric converter portion, a third pulse signal for sweeping out the charges generated in said photoelectric converter portion, and a fourth pulse signal for discharging the charges transferred to said charge/voltage converter portion are selectively supplied to said solid state image pickup device,

in a second mode, selectively replacing all of the drive pulse signals with either a predetermined fixed potential or a floating level and ~~wherein the selective replacement of the drive pulse signals is performed independently from any of the pulse signals~~ wherein another driving pulse is applied, the driving pulse being replaced.

3. (Currently Amended) A method for driving the horizontal read-out of a solid state image pickup device provided with a plurality of photoelectric converter portions being composed of a plurality of pixels in a row, and a plurality of charge transfer portions for transferring the charges generated in respective rows of pixels in the plurality of photoelectric converter portions, wherein,

a switch circuit selects between two modes, comprising:

a first mode in which the switch circuit passes drive pulses generated by a pulse generator to the charge transfer portions, or

a second mode in which the switch circuit replaces all of the drive pulses with either a predetermined fixed potential or a floating level, wherein ~~the switch over is performed independently from signals of the pulse generator~~

another driving pulse is applied, the driving pulse being replaced.

4. (Previously Presented) The solid state image pickup device of claim 1, wherein all of the drive pulse signals are replaced.

Please add the following new claims:

5. (New) A solid state image pickup device being provided with a photoelectric converter portion having a plurality of pixels in a row, a charge transfer portion having a plurality of rows of transfer elements for transferring the charges generated in said photoelectric converter portion, a charge/voltage converter portion for converting the charges transferred by said charge transfer portion into voltages, wherein

a timing pulse generator portion for generating at least more than one pulse signal type from among four pulse signals which are; a first pulse signal for driving said charge transfer portion, a second pulse signal for reading out the charges generated in said photoelectric converter portion, a third pulse signal for sweeping out the charges generated in

said photoelectric converter portion, and a fourth pulse signal for discharging the charges transferred to said charge/voltage converter portion, and

a switch circuit for selectively replacing the driving pulses with either a predetermined fixed potential or a floating level,

wherein at least one row of said transfer elements is halted, the driving pulses being replaced.

6. (New) A solid-state image pick-up device comprising:

a timing pulse generator;

a signal transfer device and at least one switch circuit connected between the timing pulse generator and the signal transfer device wherein the switch circuit selectively connects one of an output from the timing pulse generator, a fixed voltage level and a floating level to the signal transfer device.